

Presentation Brothers

L.E.A.F. PROJECT NEWSLETTER



Presentation Day – November 21st

Presentation Day is held on the Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple. This feast day has existed in the Church since the 6th century. According to the apocryphal gospel, the Protoevangelium of James, this is the day on which Mary, while still a child, was brought to the temple in Jerusalem to be offered to God. The Church wants to emphasise the total gift that Mary made of herself, by listening: "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it" (Lk. 11:28). This experience prepared the young girl from Nazareth to become the "temple of the Son of God".

Our Congregation is named after this feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary and so we honour her on this feast day and celebrate our charism and mission.



"Here I am Lord, I come to do your will." – Psalm 40

In this edition of our newsletter, reflecting on Mary's desire to be a total gift to God, we will explore the life and charism of the Presentation Brothers, with hope to encourage vocations to our Congregation and to religious life in general.

Today the Lord is calling men and women to follow Him in a radical way. People are opening their hearts and responding with generosity, joy and enthusiasm.

"Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty, and peace, wherever we find ourselves." – Pope Francis

Presentation Brothers

Presentation Brothers follow Christ as religious brothers. Our mission is evangelisation – bringing the message of Christ to young people today. If you think the Lord is calling you to this exciting mission, then we'd love to hear from you!



Forming Christ in the Young

Pope St. John Paul II said, "Every generation is like a new continent to be won for Christ!" Youth ministry is at the heart of our vocation as Presentation Brothers. We work as youth leaders, teachers, chaplains and in many diverse roles and professions to help young people form a personal relationship with Christ.

Evangelisation and Faith Development

Our Brothers and staff at the Mardyke House Community at the heart of Cork City run the L.E.A.F. Project. The Leadership Education and Formation Project is a new ministry focused on helping young adults increase their knowledge of the Catholic faith and developing young leaders for the faith.



The Mardyke House Community in collaboration with the Diocese of Cork & Ross, the UCC Chaplaincy Team and other faith groups has become a hub for youth ministry and evangelisation.

We run the 'Sycamore' Series and 'Foundations in Theology' course, along with many other workshops, retreats, and gatherings related to the faith search of young adults. The Presentation Brothers are part of the very successful 'CONNECT' young adult movement within the Diocese of Cork & Ross.

Serving Those in Need

Love of neighbour is perhaps the most effective witness we give to our faith. Presentation Brothers, in the spirit of our founder, Blessed Edmund Rice, are involved in working with and empowering people at the margins, including refugees and asylum seekers.

So if you have a passion for evangelisation and service, get in touch!

Discernment

The Vocation of the Presentation Brother

We are a Catholic congregation of religious brothers working in several countries around the world. Our vows remind us of the priority of God and free us to serve other people. We live in groups called communities and this helps us to support one another in our mission.

We believe the Lord is calling men to answer this call today Pope Francis says:

"How wonderful it is to be surprised by God's call, to embrace his word, and to walk in the footsteps of Jesus."

If you are drawn to this way of life, our message is "Do not be afraid!"

Becoming a Brother



Br. Antony's First Profession of Vows

The process of becoming a Presentation Brother is an exciting spiritual adventure, taken over several years. The first step is usually an informal chat with the Vocations Director. This is a good opportunity to ask questions and to learn more about our life, community, and mission. After that, the process begins:

Accompaniment

This is a series of regular meetings with the Vocation Director over several months. You will be guided through a process of discernment. This will enable you to reach a prayerful decision about your next step.

Community Experience (9 months)

We invite men who wish to take the next step to spend around 9 months (September to May), in our Mardyke House Formation Community in Cork. This time is an opportunity to experience and deepen your understanding of our prayer life, community, and mission.

Novitiate (2 years)

Novitiate is the first formal step into the Religious Life. It is a period of spiritual preparation. It involves prayer, reflection, and study – a decisive turning point towards the Lord in a person's life.

Profession of Temporary Vows

At the end of the novitiate, the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience are taken, initially for a period of one year at a time. This period of temporary vows can last for

up to six years depending on the individual candidate. During this time, the young Brother gains further experience of Presentation life and mission. Further studies in theology, education and other aspects of ministry are undertaken, along with practical placements in community and mission.

Profession of Final Vows

After prayer and careful discernment, on the part of the individual and the community, the young Presentation Brother now makes profession of final vows for life. He becomes a full member of the Congregation sharing in the charism of Brotherhood and the mission of 'forming Christ in the Young'.

The Vocation of the Religious Brother

–Br. Simon Fernandes

The young Brother commits to living simply, to love in an inclusive way, and to seek God's will together with the community of his Brothers. In the tradition of the Presentation Brothers, the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience are lived in the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice in the mission of evangelisation and Christian formation of young people, with a special concern for those in need.



Pope Francis has spoken very positively of the unique contribution which the vocation of the Religious Brother makes to the Church. In his encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti', he draws on the inspiration of St. Francis of Assisi to highlight the hope that brotherhood offers to a world in crisis. Another Vatican document affirms that the title brother/sister underlies the common dignity and fundamental equality of all believers. It reminds us that Jesus' fundamental way of relating to his contemporaries was as a brother, and powerfully states that **"The vocation of the Brother is part of the answer that God gives to the absence of brotherhood which is wounding the world today."**



"The Presentation Brothers are amazing!!! They have been such a gift to our whole team since we moved to Cork. I am confident that we are part of the same mission as I see their love for evangelisation, forming Christian leaders, and hospitality. They are sincerely listening to the Lord and following His will in their lives. I'm excited to see what young men the Lord will call to join them!"

Áine Lee,
FOCUS Missionary Team

"Since beginning my job as a chaplain in UCC, the Presentation Brothers have been an incredible help. It has been quite edifying to see the community live out their charism well in faith, hope, and charity. They are a massive blessing for our Church at this time; I pray that their good work continues."

Jack Kennedy,
UCC Chaplaincy Team



The Next Step

Contact our Vocations Director by phone or email. He can help answer any questions you might have. He is also available to meet you for an informal conversation.

We also organise vocation groups and live-in weekends. These are relaxed and informal opportunities to help understand our religious life better. If you are interested in any of these options, our Vocations Director would be delighted to speak with you and give you more details!

For further information on the vocation and mission of the Presentation Brothers, please contact:

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leadership education
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'Leading with Faith in the Future'

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